

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

which was about 100 metres away from the pool also ignored the tigress. Alarm calls indicated the onward passage of the tigress as she went out of our sight.

Though tigers appear to prey on gaur fairly frequently in the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary as well as in Nagarahole National Park, it is difficult to say whether this particular medium-sized tigress could have taken on the young bull gaur. Further, two tigers had killed two domestic cattle and consumed a large amount

of meat from one of the kills two days earlier at a spot barely two kilometres away from the *machan*. It is quite possible that the tigress which we saw could have been one of them, and so was not hunting. In any case the gaur seemed to be aware that it posed no immediate threat.

Similar interaction between the Indian Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus*) and their prey like sambar has been reported by A.J.T. Johnsingh in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

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3. A NOTE ON THE LONGEVITY OF TWO SPECIES OF WILD CARNIVORES IN CAPTIVITY

Not much information is available on the longevity of Indian wild animals in captivity. The present note deals with the longevity of two species of wild carnivores recorded at the Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa.

Leopard Cat (*Felis bengalensis*). A male received as a kitten on 26.iv.1970 died on 21.iii.1983 after remaining for 12 years, 10 months and 24 days in captivity. The estimated age at the time of death was approximately 13 years. After death it weighed 3.015 kg and measured 93 cm tip to tip including 29 cm long tail. This was housed in an enclosure having a floor space of approximately seven square metres; height 2.80 metres and with suitable cavelike retiring dens. It was fed with 300 gm of goat meat and 50 gm of beef daily. One live chicken was given once a month in place of goat meat and beef.

A female Leopard Cat of New York Zoological Park lived for 13 years, 6 months and 4 days (Crandall, 1965). Flower (1931) gives

the longevity of a specimen of this species as 12 or 13 years.

Himalayan Palm Civet (*Paguma larvata*). A female received as a young in the park on 1.x.1968 died on 7.iv.1983 after remaining for 14 years, 6 months and 7 days in captivity. The estimated age at the time of death was about 15 years. After death it weighed 5.4 kg and measured 110 cm, including 46 cm long tail. This was living in an enclosure similar to that of the Leopard Cat's. It was fed with 300 gm ripe banana, 50 gm minced goat meat, 200 ml milk and 50 gm boiled rice per day.

Flower (loc. cit.) has given the longevity of this species as 15 years, 5 months and 17 days. The best longevity of this species recorded at the New York Zoological Park was 11 years, 3 months and 27 days (Crandall, loc. cit.). The average span of life of captive civets in general is given as 12 to 15 years (Prater 1971).

However, we would be interested to know the longevity of these two species of Indian wild carnivores established in other Indian Zoos.

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4. RECORD OF A PYGMY WHITE-TOOTHED SHREW, *SUNCUS ETRUSCUS* (SAVI, 1822) FROM DAMAN, NEPAL

(With a text-figure)

The Pygmy Whitetoothed Shrew, *Suncus etruscus* is widely distributed from the Mediterranean zone of Europe and North Africa, Asia Minor, Indian peninsula to South-East Asia (Ellerman & Morrison-Scott 1951). In Nepal this species is represented by the subspecies *S. e. pygmaeoides* Anderson, 1877 (Frick 1968, Mitchell & Punzo 1976). It is known from Kakani, Melumchi (Mitchell &

Punzo 1976), Katmandu, Gurjakhani (Ingles *et al.* 1980), Dunche (Abe 1982).

On September 1980 the French entomologist T. Deuve caught in an insect trap a *Suncus etruscus* at Daman (Mahabharat Hills, alt. 2600 m). The shrew, a young male, had been caught in a grove of rhododendrons near a forest of pines.

TABLE 1
MANDIBULAR MEASUREMENTS: RESULTS

| Variable | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|------------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Daman | .86 | .99 | 3.57 | 2.93 | 1.31 | 1.08 | 1.46 | 1.99 |
| Cerezo, NW Spain | .62 | .81 | 3.33 | 2.88 | 1.10 | 1.05 | 1.28 | 1.90 |
| Gard, S. France | .65 | .86 | 3.32 | 2.85 | 1.25 | 1.04 | 1.47 | 1.92 |
| Gard, S. France | .75 | .85 | 3.38 | 2.81 | 1.11 | 1.02 | 1.43 | 1.91 |
| Gard, S. France | .73 | .87 | 3.41 | 2.87 | 1.17 | 1.11 | 1.42 | 1.96 |